

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The amendment proposed in this Response tracks the comments on page 8 of the office action. No new matter has been added. Entry and allowance are requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-11 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kiyoshi (JP 59209875) (formerly referenced as Kiyoshi in the previous office action and now being referenced as Shinoda) and Leimand WO 99/01282.

The present claims uniquely define the use of a doctor blade system which is not taught nor suggested by the references. In the claimed invention coating or water is not provided from a trough or the like as taught by the references. Instead, this coating or water is provided from the doctor blade system. This is different from the reference teachings. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art is not taught to replace the trough and the cooperating ductor roller with any other means. It would not be obvious for a person skilled in the art to combine the teachings.

Kiyoshi relates to conventional devices that dip rollers in substances that are to be applied to printing plate/surfaces. Kiyoshi has nothing to do with the claimed doctor blade system with the chamber that is movably disposed. In fact, the present invention precisely addresses the problems inherent in Kiyoshi.

Kiyoshi may enable the bringing of the transfer roller in contact with the plate cylinder, but nothing in the combined

teachings of Kiyoshi and Leimand provides the uniquely claimed doctor blade system comprising a chamber that transfers the coating and/or water to the blanket and/or plate cylinders.

Leimand, having common ownership with the present application by being assigned to the same Applicant, relates to a printing unit for offset machines used for lacquer application. The doctor blade chamber has lacquer and water application means. However, nothing in the reference describes, teaches or suggests the claimed movable doctor blade system.

The Examiner uses the present invention as a guide for hindsight reconstruction which, of course, is impermissible for any obviousness holding. It is impermissible to use an applicant's claim as a springboard for hunting through the prior art for the claimed elements and for combining the found elements as claimed in the application. In re Vaeck, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The references do not describe, teach, nor suggest the claimed doctor blade system with the chamber comprised in the claimed moistening unit which also supplies liquid, whether coating or water, which is transferred by the transfer roller to the blade cylinder and/or blanket cylinder, respectively.

That [the prior art] might incorporate elements which could be used in appellants' system does not render appellants' claims obvious when there is no suggestion of using these elements in substantially the same manner as appellants use them. In re Donovan, 184 USPQ 414, 421 (CCPA, 1975).

Furthermore, even if one would combine the teachings as ~~has~~ been done by the Examiner, such a combination would not result ~~in~~ the unique solution provided by the present claims in which a doctor blade system is incorporated from which coating of water is transferred to the blade cylinder or blanket cylinder.

As uniquely provided in the present invention, the doctor blade system itself supplies the coating and/or the water. The transfer roller is used for "transferring coating or water from the doctor blade system". This is novel and contrary to the reference teachings which must provide coating or water from a trough. Thus, the references lead away from the present invention.

Citing In re Gordon, 221 USPQ, 1127, the court pointed out, "the mere fact that the prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification". In re Fritch, 23 USPQ2d 1783, 1784 (CAFC, August 1992).

The invention is a doctor blade system, for example, the doctor blade system 30 in Figure 3 and corresponding description, which defines over the wiper or doctor blade of the references. The claimed doctor blade system comprises a chamber, and the coating of water which is transferred from the doctor blade system would come from such chamber.

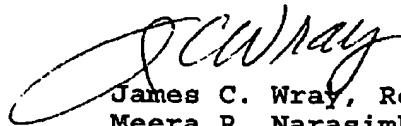
Nothing in the references, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests the claimed features. Therefore, the

references cannot anticipate nor render obvious the present invention as claimed.

Since Applicant has presented a novel, unique and non-obvious invention, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant again respectfully requests an Interview with Examiner Leo Hinze to resolve any issues that may remain. A call from the Examiner to set up a mutually convenient Interview date/time will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



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